

BY REPRESENTATIVE STEFANSKI

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:59.4(D)(2) and (E)(2)(c), 115(F)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (a) and (2)(a)(iii), 154(C)(2)(c) and (D)(1) and (2), 423(C), (E), and (H), 433(A)(I) and (5), (B)(1), and (D), 434(D)(2), 435(B)(1)(b), 602(E)(2)(b), 604(B)(2)(b), 621(B), 1278(B), 1279, 1300.2(C)(1), 1300.7(B), 1306(B)(1), 1308(A)(2)(j)(ii), 1309(J), 1313(H)(13) and (K)(2)(a), 1313.1(I)(5) and (L)(2)(a), 1371, and 1511.3(E), to enact R.S. 18:154(C)(2)(f), and to repeal R.S. 18:1532, relative to the Louisiana Election Code; to revise the system of laws comprising the Louisiana Election Code; to provide relative to the Louisiana Voter Registration Administrators' Certification Program; to provide relative to registration by mail; to provide relative to records of the registrars of voters; to provide relative to the replacement of a commissioner; to provide relative to watchers; to provide relative to vacancies in certain offices; to provide relative to petitions for a recall election; to provide relative to preparation, distribution, and tabulation of absentee by mail and early voting ballots; to provide relative to absentee voting by mail; to provide relative to early voting; to provide relative to parish boards of election supervisors; to provide relative to courses of instruction of commissioners; to remove the requirement for election day expenditure reports; to provide for effective dates; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

1 electronically, unless paper ballots were used for early voting and in such case, the  
2 ballots shall be recounted by hand for such election. The registrar shall preserve the  
3 envelope or container and its contents inviolate and, except upon the board  
4 recounting the absentee by mail ballots, shall not allow the absentee by mail and  
5 early voting ballots to be inspected by anyone until the recounting of the absentee by  
6 mail and early voting ballots by the board.

7 \* \* \*

8 §1511.3. Filing of reports; forms; notice

9 \* \* \*

10 E. The supervisory committee shall notify each person who has qualified for  
11 office the preceding year and whose last filed disclosure report reflects a deficit, each  
12 person who filed a supplemental report the preceding year which reflected a deficit,  
13 and each declared but unqualified candidate who filed a report the previous year, of  
14 the date that the annual report as provided in R.S. 18:1491.6(E) and 18:1495.4(E) is  
15 due and of the information required in the report. Each notice shall be mailed or sent  
16 by electronic mail at least thirty days prior to the date the report is due; however,  
17 failure by the supervisory committee to notify a candidate, committee, or other  
18 person as required by this Subsection shall not bar or be a defense to any action  
19 brought against a candidate, treasurer or chairman of any committee, or other person  
20 by the supervisory committee under the provisions of this Chapter.

21 Section 2. R.S. 18:423(C), (E), and (H), 433(A)(1) and (5), (B)(1), and (D), and  
22 1371 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

23 §423. Parish boards of election supervisors

24 \* \* \*

25 C. Composition. (1) In each parish, the board of election supervisors shall  
26 be composed of the registrar of voters, the clerk of court, the chairman of the parish  
27 executive committee of each recognized political party or his designee, or an  
28 alternate designee if the designee cannot serve, who both of whom shall be ~~a member~~  
29 members of the parish executive committee of the same recognized political party,

1        of the registrar or his deputy immediately before the early voting locations are  
 2        opened.

3        Section 3. R.S. 18:1532 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

4        Section 4.(A) Section 1, Section 3, and this Section of this Act shall become  
 5        effective upon signature of this Act by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon  
 6        expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided  
 7        by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If this Act is vetoed by the  
 8        governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, Section 1, Section 3, and this Section  
 9        of this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

10       (B) Section 2 of this Act shall become effective on August 1, 2022.

#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 646 Reengrossed

2022 Regular Session

Stefanski

**Abstract:** Makes revisions to the La. Election Code.

Present law (R.S. 18:59.4) creates the La. Voter Registration Administrators' Certification Program to formalize and recognize the professional standards of registrars of voters, chief deputy registrars, and confidential assistants to registrars of voters in the state. Present law provides that one of the requirements of certification is 144 hours of course work to be completed within five years. Requires certification renewal every three years.

Proposed law retains present law except to provide that if a gubernatorially declared disaster impacts the certification process, the time period for completing the course work is six years and the certification renewal is required every four years.

Present law (R.S. 18:115) authorizes a person to register by mail to vote. Requires a person who registered by mail and who has not previously voted in the parish to vote either:

- (1) During early voting in the office of the registrar of voters.
- (2) In person at the precinct in which he is registered to vote.

Proposed law provides that a person who registered by mail may vote during early voting at any location where early voting is conducted rather than requiring that he vote at the registrar's office.

Present law provides exceptions to these limitations on where such a person may vote; provides that a person with a disability is exempt if he provides proof of the disability and a certification that because of the disability he cannot vote in person and he meets other requirements.